

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3, 13, 21, 22, 25-34 and 36-40 are currently pending in this application. Claims 3 and 25 are amended. Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 14-20, 23-24 and 35 are canceled. Applicant submits that no new matter has been introduced into this application by these amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 24 – 27 and 39 contain allowable subject matter and that claims 21, 30 – 34 and 40 are allowed. Accordingly, claim 3 has been amended to include the allowable features of claim 24.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 3, 13, 28, 29 and 37 – 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Applicant's own International Patent Application Publication No. WO01/04714.

Claims 3, 13, 22, 28, 36 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,409,050 to Weese.

Claim 3, has been amended to include the features of claim 24, which was indicated as being allowable, and is therefore allowable. Claims 12, 22, 25 – 29 and

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36 – 39 depend, either directly or indirectly on claim 3 and are therefore likewise allowable.

To the extent that only allowed or allowable claims remain in the application, the withdrawal of the §102(b) rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 3, 13, 21, 22 and 25 – 34 and 36 – 40, is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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